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## Latest release

# Personal Income in Australia

Regional data on the number of income earners, amounts received, and the distribution of income

Reference period 2021-22 financial year

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Released 8/11/2024

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## Key statistics

During 2021-22:

- Total personal income was \$1.19 trillion
- Median personal income was \$55,062, up 4.0% on 2020-21
- Employee income comprised 82.5% of total personal income

Personal Income in Australia (PIA), along with [Jobs in Australia \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/jobs-australia/latest-release\)](#) (JIA), is one of two releases containing data from the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED). The [Jobs and Income of Employed Persons, 2021-22 \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/jobs-australia\)](#) TableBuilder product contains more detailed data from the LEED.

### Revisions due to the inclusion of non-lodgers

Non-lodgers are individuals who do not lodge a tax return. This can include employees who have employee income reported by their employers, persons who receive an income below certain levels (i.e. the tax-free threshold), or persons who derive their income from some Commonwealth of Australia Government pension, benefit and allowance payments that are exempt from income tax. Due to the unavailability of detailed age and sex data, non-lodgers who have employee income have previously been excluded from download tables 1, 2 and 4.

From this release, detailed age and sex data will include non-lodgers with employee income in download tables 1,2 and 4 for all years from 2017-18 and 2021-22. As a result, key statistics, including total personal income, median total personal income, proportion of employee income in total personal income, sources of personal income and Gini coefficients are revised relative to estimates for previous reference years, from 2017-18 to 2020-21.

### Other standard revisions

Whilst the majority of revisions to data from 2017-18 to 2020-21 reflect the inclusion of non-lodgers, revisions to data also includes standard revisions. Standard revisions are the result of reprocessing historical data (i.e. with updated records or missing information) which usually result in very minor differences to previous years.

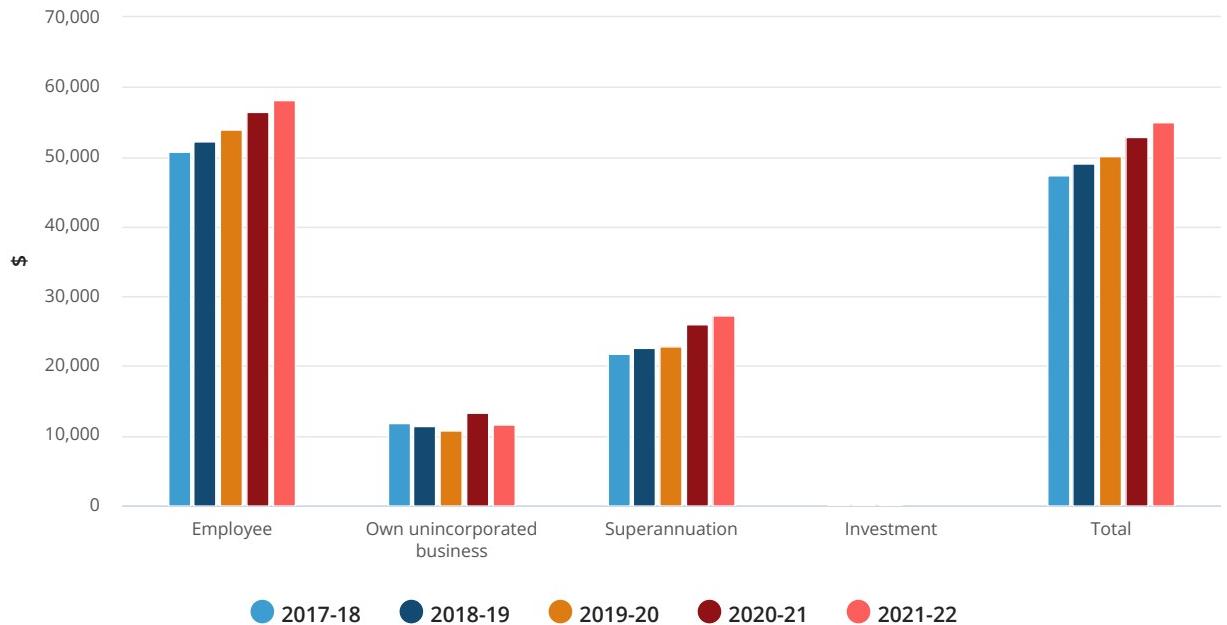
### Guide to labour statistics

To learn more about our different labour measures, their purpose and how to use them, see our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics\)](#). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide\)](#) (similar to income) data.

## Sources of personal income

- For most people (80.1%), employee income was the main source of income, up slightly from 79.4% in 2020-21.
- Median employee income was highest (\$58,260, a 3.1% increase on the previous year), followed by superannuation income (\$27,226, a 4.8% increase on the previous year).
- Only 1.3% of people received superannuation income as their main source of income, down slightly from 1.5% in the previous year.

### Graph 1 - Median personal income by source


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## State and territory

- The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest median total income (\$72,115) and Tasmania the lowest (\$50,645)
- Western Australia recorded the fastest growth rate since 2017-18 (18.1%), and New South Wales and South Australia the slowest (15.2%)
- Of all the states and territories, the top 1% of earners received the greatest share of the state's total personal income in New South Wales (11.9%)

## Distribution indicators for total personal income

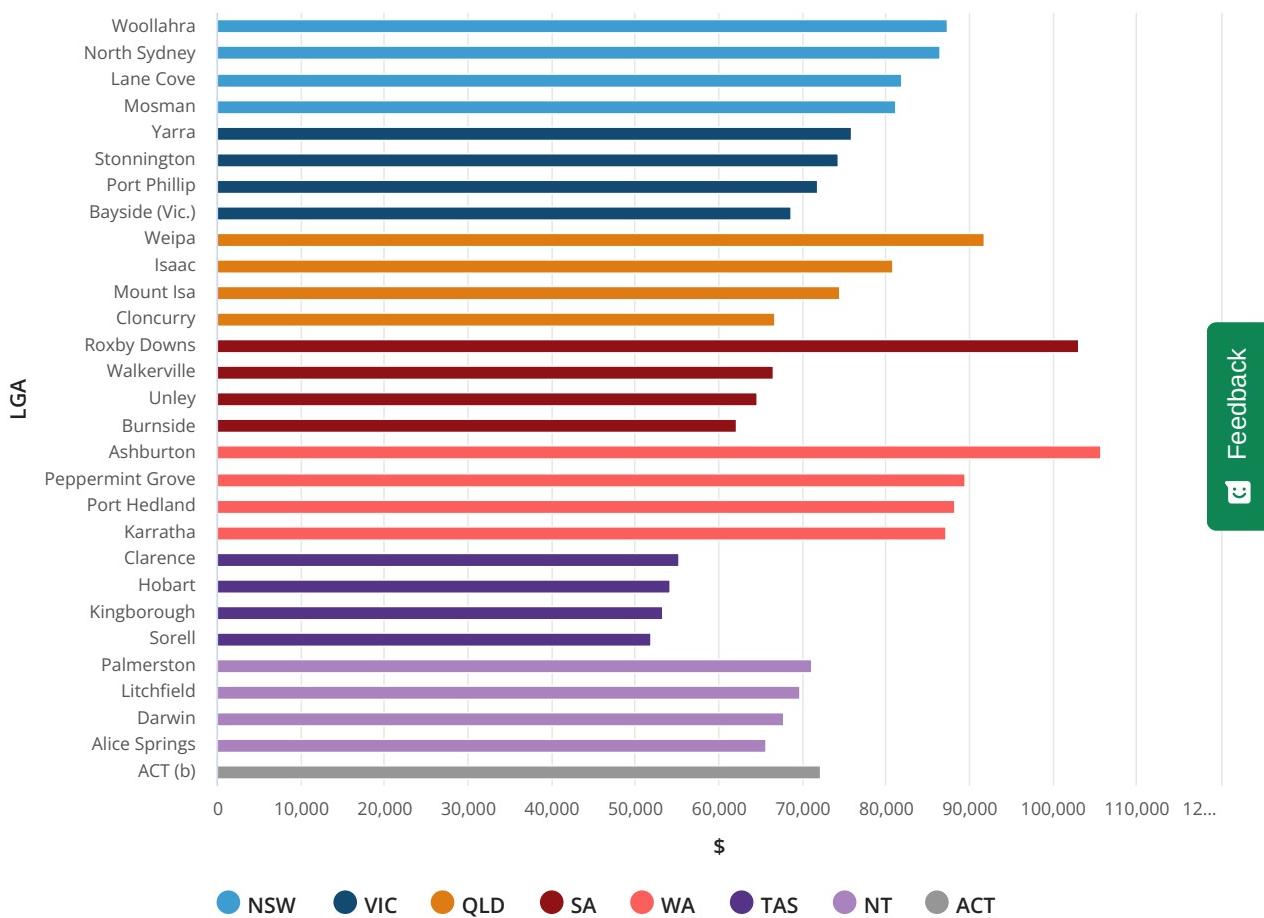
	Median total income		Median total income growth rate		Income Share		
	2021-22	Last year	Since 2017-18	Top 1% earners	Top 5% earners	Top 10% earners	
Australia	\$55,062	4.0%	16.0%	10.3%	23.4%	34.7%	
New South Wales	\$55,105	2.2%	15.2%	11.9%	25.6%	36.8%	
Victoria	\$54,708	4.8%	16.4%	10.3%	23.4%	34.7%	
Queensland	\$54,076	4.9%	16.6%	9.1%	21.7%	32.8%	
South Australia	\$53,353	4.7%	15.2%	8.3%	20.7%	31.6%	
Western Australia	\$59,426	5.3%	18.1%	9.7%	22.4%	33.7%	
Tasmania	\$50,645	5.2%	16.9%	8.5%	20.6%	31.3%	
Northern Territory	\$65,301	4.6%	15.7%	6.1%	17.4%	27.9%	
Australian Capital Territory	\$72,115	3.4%	15.3%	7.2%	19.2%	29.8%	

## Local Government Areas

In 2021-22, the Local Government Areas with the highest median total income in Australia were:

- Ashburton in Western Australia (\$105,628)
- Roxby Downs in South Australia (\$103,140)
- Weipa in Queensland (\$91,699)

Graph 2: Local Government Areas with the highest median total income(a)



a. Excludes Local Government Areas with less than 1,000 earners.

b. The Australian Capital Territory has no separate local governments.

## Income inequality

The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) provides the most comprehensive source of information for calculating Gini coefficients and measuring income inequality. As such, estimates from [Household Income and Wealth, Australia](#) ([/statistics/economy/finance/household-income-and-wealth-australia/latest-release](#)) should

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be used wherever possible, particularly at the Australia, State and Territory, and Greater Capital City Statistical Area levels. Gini coefficients from Personal Income in Australia should be considered complementary information, which provide insights for lower geographic levels. For more information about Gini coefficients, see the [Methodology \(/methodologies/personal-income-australia-methodology/2021-22\)](#).

The Gini coefficient is a summary indicator, usually between 0 and 1 that indicates the degree of inequality among total incomes within a region. A value of 0 indicates that all earners reported the same amount of income in that region. Higher values represent relatively higher levels of income inequality. The income data reported in this release is market income and therefore can be negative. This is mainly due to losses for Owner Managers of Unincorporated Enterprises (OMUEs). For areas with large numbers of OMUEs reporting negative incomes, the Gini coefficients can exceed 1. The following Gini coefficients are for areas with 1,000 or more earners living within them and excludes the Australian Capital Territory, which does not have local government areas.

In 2021-22, the following Local Government Areas had the lowest income inequality (the lowest Gini coefficients) in their respective State/Territory:

- Weipa in Queensland (0.363)
- Palmerston in Northern Territory (0.382)
- Roxby Downs in South Australia (0.383)

The highest income inequality (the highest Gini coefficients) in their respective State/Territory was:

- Cottesloe in Western Australia (0.805)
- Woollahra in New South Wales (0.703)
- Barcaldine in Queensland (0.632)

#### Local government areas with the lowest Gini coefficients for each State and Territory, 2021-22

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LGA	State/ Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile) (a)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
<b>Camden</b>	New South Wales	0.427	28.1%	27.7%	\$63,076	\$72,305
<b>Melton</b>	Victoria	0.426	21.1%	27.0%	\$55,118	\$62,523
<b>Weipa</b>	Queensland	0.363	48.4%	23.1%	\$91,699	\$94,645
<b>Roxby Downs</b>	South Australia	0.383	54.5%	23.7%	\$103,140	\$109,401
<b>Ashburton</b>	Western Australia	0.392	54.0%	22.7%	\$105,628	\$104,864
<b>Glenorchy</b>	Tasmania	0.400	14.0%	25.1%	\$51,294	\$54,889
<b>Palmerston</b>	Northern Territory	0.382	30.3%	24.7%	\$71,069	\$75,809
<b>ACT(b)</b>	Australian Capital Territory	0.441	34.8%	29.8%	\$72,115	\$84,557

a. Proportion of earners in each LGA whose income is in the range of the top quartile, as calculated at the national level.

b. The Australian Capital Territory has no separate local governments.

#### Local government areas with the highest Gini coefficients for each State and Territory, 2021-22

LGA	State/ Territory	Gini coefficient	Proportion of high earners (top quartile) (a)	Income share received by top 10% of earners	Median income	Mean income
Woollahra	New South Wales	0.703	47.2%	59.1%	\$87,437	\$204,687
Queenscliffe	Victoria	0.624	26.9%	42.8%	\$48,746	\$76,085
Barcaldine	Queensland	0.632	22.5%	38.3%	\$53,460	\$64,910
Walkerville	South Australia	0.602	35.9%	47.3%	\$66,533	\$117,339
Cottesloe	Western Australia	0.805	45.1%	72.6%	\$80,932	\$302,955
Dorset	Tasmania	0.605	13.0%	46.7%	\$43,385	\$63,934
East Arnhem	Northern Territory	0.588	9.8%	38.4%	\$17,092	\$33,284
ACT(b)	Australian Capital Territory	0.441	34.8%	29.8%	\$72,115	\$84,557

a. Proportion of earners in each LGA whose income is in the range of the top quartile, as calculated at the national level.

b. The Australian Capital Territory has no separate local governments.

## Migrants

In this release, 'migrants' refers to people who have arrived in Australia since January 2000, and includes permanent migrants who have become Australian citizens during this period.

In 2021-22, 4.0 million migrants who lodged an individual tax return generated \$284.1 billion in total personal income.

Most migrant taxpayers were permanent migrants (65.4% or 2.6 million people) who generated \$204.2 billion (71.9% of total migrant income).

- \$134.3 billion (47.3%) was reported by permanent skilled migrants (1.5 million people)
- \$46.7 billion (16.4%) was reported by permanent family migrants (769,200 people)
- \$15.9 billion (5.6%) was reported by other permanent migrants (206,200 people)
- \$7.3 billion (2.6%) was reported by permanent humanitarian migrants (159,200 people).

Over a third (33.4% or 1.3 million people) were temporary migrants generating \$75.4 billion (26.5%) of total migrant income.

For each visa group, employee income was the main source of income, making up at least 75% of total migrant income received.

### Total income by visa group, 2021-22

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Visa group	Earners (persons)	Total income (\$)
<b>Permanent visas</b>		
Permanent skilled	1,500,000	134,345,192,200
Family	769,200	46,702,513,300
Humanitarian	159,200	7,324,611,500
Permanent other	206,200	15,853,591,500
<b>Total permanent</b>	<b>2,634,600</b>	<b>204,225,908,500</b>
<b>Temporary visas</b>		
Temporary skilled	72,300	7,005,488,900
Student	247,200	6,594,562,600
Working holiday maker	39,400	945,336,400
Temporary other	69,300	3,137,731,500
Bridging visas	312,200	15,302,095,300
Provisional	84,100	4,205,645,300
<b>NZ citizen (subclass 444)</b>	<b>520,000</b>	<b>38,176,535,300</b>
<b>Total temporary</b>	<b>1,344,600</b>	<b>75,367,395,300</b>
<b>Australian citizen</b>	<b>49,400</b>	<b>4,484,585,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,028,600</b>	<b>284,077,889,300</b>

For permanent migrants, of their total income:

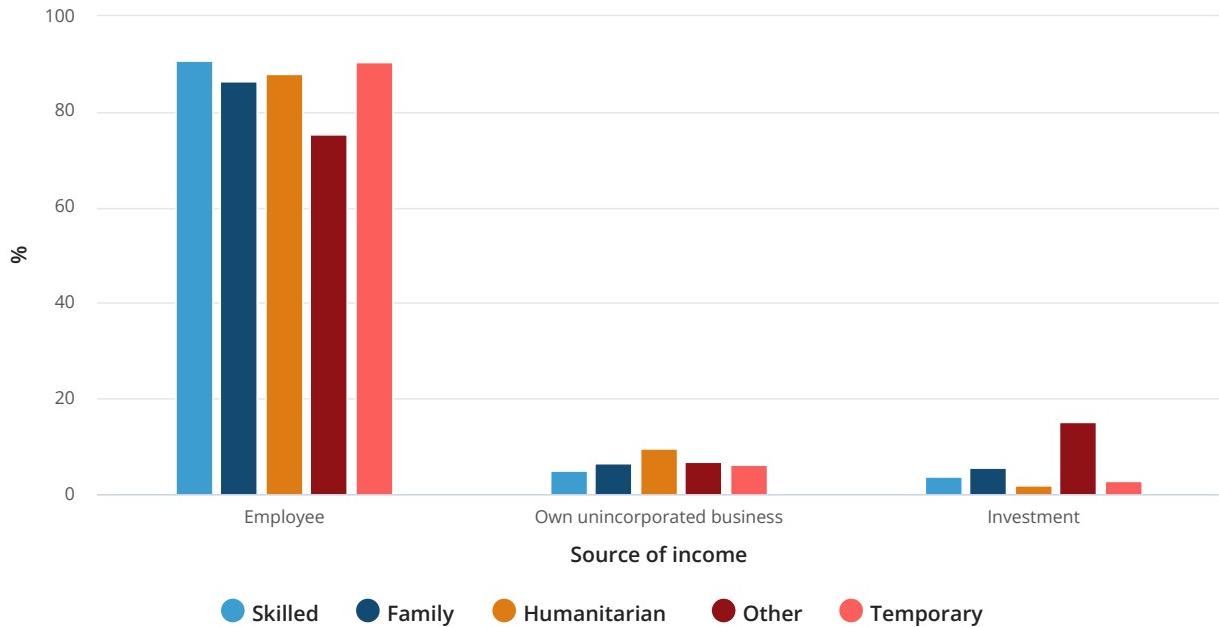
- skilled migrants had the highest proportion of employee income (90.7%)
- humanitarian migrants had the highest proportion of own unincorporated business income (9.6%)
- other permanent migrants had the highest proportion of investment income (15.2%).

For temporary migrants, of their total income:

- 90.4% was employee income
- 6.1% was own unincorporated business income
- 2.9% was investment income.

### Graph 3: Sources of personal income by visa group, 2021-22

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Note: These percentages do not add to 100 as total income also includes superannuation and annuities income and other income.

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## Data downloads

Table 1 - Total income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2017-18 to 2021-22

[Download XLSX](#)

[980.76 KB]

Table 2 - Total income distribution by geography, 2021-22

[Download XLSX](#)

[557.75 KB]

Table 3 - Employee income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2017-18 to 2021-22

[Download XLSX](#)

[1.05 MB]

Table 4 - Employee income, earners and summary statistics by age group, sex and geography, 2017-18 to 2021-22

[Download XLSX](#)

[1.52 MB]

Table 5 - Investment income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2017-18 to 2021-22

[Download XLSX](#)

[954.93 KB]

Table 6 - Own unincorporated business income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2017-18 to 2021-22

[Download XLSX](#)

[980.74 KB]

Table 7 - Superannuation income, earners and summary statistics by geography, 2017-18 to 2021-22

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[949.5 KB]

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Table 8 - Summary statistics by Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, 2017-18 to 2021-22

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[80.36 KB]

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Table 9 - Migrants, Total income by arrival group, 2017-18 to 2021-22

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[1.46 MB]

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Table 10 - Migrants, Employee income by arrival group , 2017-18 to 2021-22

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[1.45 MB]

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Table 11 - Migrants, Investment income by arrival group, 2017-18 to 2021-22

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[1.32 MB]

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Table 12 - Migrants, Own unincorporated business income, 2017-18 to 2021-22

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[1.38 MB]

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All data cubes

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[12.32 MB]

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#### Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6524.0.55.002.

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#### Methodology

[Personal Income in Australia methodology, 2021-22 financial year](#)